

ALDERTON'S ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 2026

Tuesday 12 May 2026 at 7.00pm

Alderton Village Hall

Email: clerk@aldertonparishcouncil.gov.uk | Web: www.aldertonparishcouncil.gov.uk

– MINUTES –

Present: M. Davies (Chair), J Kettle, N Broderick, M West, P Woodman
Attendance: Parish Clerk, Borough Cllr Madel, 19 members of the public

1. Welcome and Introduction by the Chair

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked residents and representatives of local organisations for attending.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Borough Cllr Mason and Borough Cllr Gray.

3. Minutes of the Previous Annual Parish Meeting

The minutes of the previous Annual Parish Meeting were noted.

4. Chairman's Address

Cllr Davies gave an overview of Parish Council activities over the past year, including ongoing work with Gloucestershire Rural Community Council (GRCC) to develop a parish priorities plan for future Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) spending.

It was also noted that there is currently a vacancy on the Parish Council, and residents were encouraged to consider becoming a Parish Councillor.

Cllr Broderick provided a summary of current and recent planning applications within the parish. The full Chairman's and Planning reports are attached at Appendix A.

5. Reports from County and Borough Councillors

Borough Cllr Madel provided an update on Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and outlined a number of key focus areas over the past year, including flood resilience, financial sustainability within local government, improvements to digital and electronic services, long-term planning considerations, and climate and environmental policies.

It was noted that the Council currently remains in a stable financial position with a balanced budget ahead of any future authority changes.

Full reports are attached at Appendix B..

6. Reports from Local Groups and Organisations.

Groups and Organisation reports can be found in Appendix C

- **Severn Trent**

Representatives from Severn Trent community team attended the meeting and discussed community engagement initiatives.

Concerns were raised regarding water pressure in the upper part of the village. It was confirmed that a sewer capacity assessment for the village, is due to take place in the near future. Severn Trent advised that the Parish Council would be updated on the outcome.

- **Alderton Gardening Club**

A positive update was provided by the Chair of the Alderton Gardening Club, including increased membership and ongoing club activities.

- **Crib League**

It was reported that the Crib League season had concluded. Although there was no overall win this year, it was noted that the continued success and existence of the club remains positive at a time when many similar local leagues are ceasing to operate.

7. Open Forum - Matters of Parish Interest

- Cllr Madel explained that Tewkesbury Borough Council's housing land supply has reduced to 3.65 years, primarily due to increased national housing targets alongside delays in large strategic housing sites being delivered. Although many developments have planning permission, insufficient numbers of homes are currently being built within the required timeframe to meet the Government's five-year housing land supply requirement.
- It was noted that Tewkesbury Borough Council continues to recruit planning officers, reflecting what appears to be a nationwide recruitment challenge.
- An update was provided regarding the Speed Indicator Device (SID), including the potential use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding towards newer solar-powered equipment and ongoing discussions with Gloucestershire Highways regarding suitable post locations and wider road safety measures.
- Questions were raised regarding Local Government Reorganisation and whether future changes would result in cost savings.
- Concerns regarding internet connectivity and broadband provision within the village were discussed following issues relating to Gigaclear. It was noted that further updates are awaited regarding future connectivity improvements.
- Sewage infrastructure, sewer adoption arrangements for new developments, and future investment requirements were discussed with Severn Trent representatives.
- It was confirmed that the existing weight restriction remains in place on Willow Bank Road bridge, with an exemption for access.
- The status of the Neighbourhood Development Plan (NDP) was discussed. It was confirmed that the NDP remains in force and continues to secure the parish a 25% share of Community Infrastructure Levy receipts. However, it was considered that there is currently limited benefit in reviewing the NDP while wider strategic planning changes and national planning reforms remain under consideration.
- Playing field and football-related parking issues along Beckford Road and Franklin Road were raised. The Parish Council confirmed that once arrangements are in place to secure the field entrance gate, the Council intends to take on a lease of the school field, which may allow limited parking provision for certain events.
- The Parish Council confirmed that Gloucestershire County Council has advised there are currently no known plans relating to the land (School field) on Beckford Road, although concerns regarding potential future development remain.

8. Closing Remarks

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and contributing to the meeting.

Chair closed the meeting at 8.05PM

APPENDIX A**Chair's Report 2025–26**

This report provides an overview of Alderton Parish Council's work over the 2025–26 council year. Where relevant, items that remain ongoing are noted as continuing priorities. This report covers the main items addressed by the Parish Council over the year including matters related to Highways, Flooding, Security, Allotments, Community Projects and Planning (which has its own dedicated report).

Council, Governance and How We Work

The Council met regularly throughout the year at Alderton Village Hall and welcomed public attendance and participation. The Council elected Cllr Davies as Chair for 2025–26 and Councillors completed the required Declarations of Acceptance of Office. The Council continued to manage declarations of interest and dispensations where required (including a standing dispensation relating to Allotments) and successfully completed an internal audit to ensure council operation remains in accordance with required regulations, policies and procedures.

Within the year, the Parish Council took advantage of Cameron Thomas MP's surgery workshop held at the Village Hall to raise the specific issues and concerns of the parish and surrounding areas directly with our government representative.

Highways, Traffic and Road Safety

The Council continued to press for progress on road safety and highways maintenance issues affecting residents, working with Gloucestershire County Council (GCC), Gloucestershire Highways, Borough and County councillors and officers where appropriate. Key themes included speeding, suitability and siting of speed indicator devices, and routine maintenance such as road markings, drainage and resurfacing.

- **20mph / "20's Plenty":** The Council agreed to express interest in the county scheme, subject to subsequent Gloucestershire Highways budget and funding, noting particular concerns for Willow Bank Road, School Road and Beckford Road.
- **Speed Indicator Devices (SIDs) and road safety measures:** The Council sought quotations for new up-to-date solar powered Speed Indicator Devices (SID)/Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) devices and pursued updates from Gloucestershire Highways on installation matters (including pole locations and suitability) subject to their budget and funding – this initiative will be pursued in 2026-27. The B4077 and the Black Sheds junction were also repeatedly referenced in councillor reports as areas of concern given the frequency of collisions and near-misses near the parish.
- **Roadworks and closures:** Residents were kept informed through meeting minutes, village newsletters and the parish website updates on planned works, including road closures and resurfacing activity including most recently the B4077 between Teddington and Toddington.
- **Reporting and escalation:** The use of 'FixMyStreet' for issues including potholes, signage, markings, road furniture and drainage concerns has been widely used and promoted within the parish to ensure Gloucestershire Highways address issues as required.
- **Bus Service:** The Pulham's 606 bus service through the parish has increased from twice a day to four times a day, funded by Gloucestershire County Council, improving the transport connection to neighbouring communities and Cheltenham.

Flooding, Drainage and Environmental Matters

Flooding prevention and drainage remained an ongoing priority, including work to keep culverts clear and to address localised drainage and persistent flooding problems. The Council undertook a dedicated flood prevention scheme with support from the Dumbleton Estate, Gloucestershire County Council's environment team, Gloucestershire Highways and Severn Trent including a number of site visits, to implement Natural Flood Management (NFM) and mitigate issues resulting during periods of heavy rainfall and continues engagement with stakeholders to ensure long-term solutions.

- **Culverts and natural flood management:** Addition of surface run-off attenuation on the Dumbleton Estate with ditches and culverts to slow and redirect rainfall into natural waterways away from the village infrastructure. This work was supported by culvert clearance activity and follow-up inspections, with agreed further local ditch clearing where debris and fallen trees were impacting flow.
- **Willow Bank Road drainage:** The Council monitored flooding and drainage reports, including a CCTV survey that identified a non-discharging arrangement; options are being investigated to connect to a suitable outlet.
- **Working with Severn Trent:** A new Community Flood Officer attended a recent meeting to discuss problem areas in the parish, storm event sampling, pollution incident response and how the community can be supported. The Community Flood Officer also clarified Severn Trent's role in planning applications.
- **Community preparedness:** The Council implemented additional community support through accessibility of sandbags and notified their availability through local communications.

Since implementation of flood prevention measures, persistent problem areas on Willow Bank Road both behind the Gardeners Arms and down the road to the brook have both seen significant improvement. Similarly, School Road and around the Church yard have so far seen significant reduction in instances of flooding. The Council will continue to monitor the situation.

Community Facilities and Local Projects

The Council supported a range of community facilities and initiatives, balancing immediate maintenance needs with longer-term investment planning.

- **Alderton Village Hall redevelopment:** The Council supported the early stages of the redevelopment proposal, including acknowledging the feasibility and consultation work undertaken by the Village Hall Committee. Initial feedback indicated good community support for a flexible, multi-purpose space, alongside understandable questions about cost and funding. The Council noted that any use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding would need to be considered against other parish priorities and alongside wider grant funding opportunities.
- **St Margaret's Church heating project (CIL):** In December 2025 the Council resolved to allocate up to £10,000 from Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds towards the replacement of the church heating system, recognising the building's role as a valued community facility.

- **Playing field and play area:** The Council agreed renewal of the annual service contracts for the playing field and changing facility and continued routine play area inspection, including requests to adjust grass cutting timings to support local football teams' use of the field. The Council is currently undertaking assessment of football pitch improvements to maintain its playing surface and increase the usability of the field for local teams and clubs. The playing field is currently utilised by local junior football teams for matches and training with parking limitations being duly considered by the teams with far fewer reports of poor parking practices or behaviours as has been reported previously.
- **Old school playing field:** The Council has worked with Gloucestershire County Council who own the field to replace the damaged and collapsing fence alongside the footpath and has agreed a lease agreement to utilise the field for the benefit of the parish.
- **Millennium Copse:** The Council noted local environmental maintenance needs, including branch debris and fallen trees, and agreed follow-up actions to support safe and tidy use.
- **War Memorial:** The Council supported a parishioner's initiative to identify missing names from the village war memorial and ongoing work to add the names in recognition of their sacrifices.

Further use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds to support community infrastructure development are outlined below in the 'Finance and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)' section of this report.

Allotments

The Council continued to work closely with the Alderton Allotment Association (AAA) to maintain and improve the allotment site. This includes a number of practical site improvements, discussions on tenant management and facilities, and the Council thanks volunteers for their contributions and ongoing support.

- **Site improvements and maintenance:** Volunteer working parties cleared the western boundary and planted trees provided through available grants; the Council recorded thanks and continued to track hedge cutting and flooding issues in one corner of the site.
- **Facilities:** The Council discussed seasonal water supply arrangements and agreed actions to obtain a portable toilet for hire (April–October). The Council continues to explore further stand-pipes to support allotment sub-division and availability, and the installation of a composting toilet as a longer-term permanent solution utilising grant funding.
- **Good practice and governance:** The Council engaged with National Allotment Society guidance on risk assessments and legal processes, and considered insurance and ongoing maintenance implications where new equipment options (such as a tractor) are being explored.

Community Safety, Communications and Engagement

The Council continued to promote community engagement and to support local initiatives aimed at strengthening communication and safety.

- **Security:** The Council responded to safety concerns after a spate of thefts and crime issues by arranging a local Crime briefing attended by Tewkesbury Neighbourhood Policing Inspector and the local Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner to answer questions, provide guidance and discuss practical solutions for residents. The Council also supported efforts to restart and strengthen Neighbourhood Watch in the parish. A parish representative is now engaged with Neighbourhood Policing through quarterly meetings to coordinate with the Police and other local communities for support.
- **Local communications:** The Council used local communications (including the village newsletter, WhatsApp and parish website) to raise awareness of practical issues such as responsible use of community spaces and local safety messaging. The Council also created an Alderton Directory (accessed via the parish council website) including details of local clubs, groups and volunteering opportunities to improve awareness and support social cohesion within the growing community.
- **Public involvement:** Across the year's meetings, the Council welcomed residents and recorded queries and concerns raised by members of the public, including development impacts and village infrastructure. The Council has also increased visibility through attendance at village Coffee Mornings and other events.

Working with County and Borough Partners

The Council benefited from regular updates from County and Borough councillors and continued to engage with wider strategic issues that affect Alderton, including local government reorganisation (LGR) and strategic planning policy changes.

- **Local Government Reorganisation (LGR):** Updates were received throughout the year and the Council monitored proposals and potential implications for local representation. The Council will continue this ongoing engagement in 2026-27.
- **Strategic Local Plan:** The Council noted consultations and documentation updates and agreed actions to submit formal responses, including where Alderton's designation or potential site options raised concerns.
- **Garden Communities programme:** The Council continued to receive periodic updates, including on infrastructure and programme timescales.

- **Funding opportunities:** The Council noted external grant programmes highlighted by borough councillors (including wellbeing and community grant schemes, tree planting etc) and considered how such funding could support local priorities.

Finance and Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

The Council continued to take a considered approach to local spending, including the use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds to support eligible infrastructure projects that benefit the community.

The Council set a precept of £21,998.00 for 2026–27. The Council's annual accounts for 2025–26 will be subject to internal audit before submission to the external auditor. The Council maintained healthy general fund reserves in accordance with its reserves policy, ensuring financial resilience. The approved accounts and annual governance statement will be published on the parish website in due course, as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations.

Developers of new homes in Alderton are required to pay a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). Most of this funding is paid to Tewkesbury Borough Council; however, as Alderton has a Neighbourhood Plan, 25% is passed directly to Alderton Parish Council. CIL funding must be used for: "The provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure, or anything concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area."

CIL spending decisions are recorded in the minutes of Council meetings and this year include the allocation of funding towards the St Margaret's Church heating replacement project and supporting the initial steps of Village Hall Committee redevelopment project, alongside other smaller improvement projects.

Wider use of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds resulting from the developments within the parish will be subject to consultation with the parish through an upcoming survey. The Council has been working with GRCC (a county-wide Voluntary & Community Sector organisation) to develop and deploy a survey to assess the needs of the parish to support prioritisation of use of the funds available which will be a key activity for 2026-27.

Planning and Development

Planning continued to be a significant area of Council activity. The Council reviewed planning applications and provided comments where local impacts were identified, including matters such as village character, access, lighting, drainage and construction impacts. A specific Planning report is attached to this report, but the main planning matters are summarised below:

- **Land behind 52–74 Willow Bank Road (Owl Homes):** The Council tracked multiple condition-discharge submissions and ongoing site matters through the year. Concerns raised in the period include external lighting impacts (including dark skies considerations), levels/roof pitch and elevations, and construction management issues. The Council noted an active enforcement case and liaised with the developer and planning enforcement, including seeking clarification on temporary illuminated bollards and construction activity.
- **Land east of St Margaret's Drive (Daylestone Park):** The Council continued to monitor the development and raised specific points including landscaping management and enforcement issues around site working hours.
- **Outline proposals for land off Beckford Road (Franklin Road access):** The Council submitted responses to the outline application and maintains a watching brief on the application and associated access and legal/management company matters, noting ongoing issues to be resolved between parties and raising queries over road safety audit information.

Priorities for the Year Ahead

The Council's continuing priorities include:

- Maintaining scrutiny of local planning applications and ensuring residents' concerns are appropriately reflected in Council responses.
- Continuing to pursue road safety improvements with Gloucestershire Highways, including speed management measures and progress on Speed Indicator Device (SID)/Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) installations and associated highways actions.
- Progressing drainage and flooding-related actions with partners, including culvert maintenance and longer-term solutions for known problem areas.
- Supporting community facilities, infrastructure and local projects, including ongoing football pitch improvements and engagement via the forthcoming CIL survey and subsequent delivery of committed CIL-funded projects.
- Continuing close working with the Alderton Allotment Association on site management, facilities and risk-based maintenance.

Thanks

I would like to thank all Councillors for their time and commitment over the year, and to thank the Parish Clerk for their essential support in keeping the Council running effectively. The Council is also grateful to borough and county councillors and parishioners who attend meetings and contribute constructively, and to volunteers and community groups who help care for and improve parish assets within the community.

Cllr Martin Davies, Chair

Planning Update

This year Planning issues within Alderton have focused on four main areas:

- Monitoring and, where necessary, engaging in consultations on various topic papers as part of the ongoing Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury Strategic Local Plan preparations.
- Monitoring and raising objections and comments relating to the ongoing outline planning application for up to 32 dwellings, Land to the rear of Franklin Road off Beckford Road.
- Monitoring and, where necessary, seeking clarification or raising objections and concerns relating to the ongoing two construction sites at the rear of Willow Bank Road (Owl Homes) and St Margarets Drive (Freeman Homes).
- Reviewing smaller householder planning applications and providing Parish Council Comments as required.

All this against the unchanged higher tier planning objectives of the current Government to build 1.5 million in their 5 year term; the ongoing shortfall of Tewkesbury housing land supply resting at 3.65 years versus the required 5 years supply; the ongoing Local Government Reorganisation plans to replace the current two tier system of District and County councils by a new Unitary Authority. We await the Government's final decision on the LGR during the summer – but maybe this timescale may slip in light of the current internal issues affecting the government following last week's elections.

Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury Strategic Local Plan

During the latter part of 2025 a number of Topic Papers and evidence based reports were consulted upon by the Joint Authorities. Alderton Parish Council made representations on these Topic Papers. The responses to these papers are currently being assessed by the Joint Authorities and we await the publication of a pre-submission version of the Local Plan during summer 2026, which will be the subject of a further consultation exercise before a final Plan is submitted to the Secretary of State for consideration at the end of the year.

This will then be the subject of a Local Plan Inquiry, maybe in 2027, followed by the Inspector's Report and a final adoption of the Plan in 2028 at the earliest. Unfortunately this means we remain in a difficult period with out of date plans and ongoing housing supply shortfalls for some time to come.

Current Alderton Site Updates

At a local level we continue to deal with planning applications within the village making representations when required, despite the aforementioned difficult upper tier planning scenario we find ourselves in.

Land to the Rear of Franklin Road off Beckford Road – 24/00393/OUT

This application is now approaching its second anniversary since submission in May 2024. This ongoing outline application for 32 dwellings continues to be fought by ourselves alongside an active Management Company and local residents – raising objections and concerns following numerous amended plan submissions, highway safety audits and ongoing legal land ownership and rights arguments.

Owl Homes – Land R/O Willow Bank Road (22/00998/FUL)

The ongoing construction of this site has caused much complaint both from residents and the Parish Council as follows:

- Works starting on site before clearance of relevant conditions.
- During the very dry periods of last summer APC attended the site to liaise with the site manager on a number of occasions to try and get water sprinklers and bowsers to be used on a more frequent basis.
- Instances where building works did not completely reflect the approved plans – requiring APC representations and amended plans to be submitted to rectify the situation.
- Low level bollards installed without permission – requiring APC further engagement with developers and Council to ensure bollard lighting was put on a timer during winter months and their removal at the end of the development.
- APC raising objections to amended plans submitted to increase heights of buildings etc where necessary.

The latest situation involves a current planning application to install a number of street lights along Willow Bank Road – with APC making representations and directly liaising with Owl Homes, Gloucestershire Highway Authority and Tewkesbury Council to try and secure ongoing Dark skies within the village.

APC continues to act as liaison between residents' issues and concerns, the developers and Tewkesbury Enforcement team as necessary to try to ensure the development moves forward with the least amount of harm and disturbance as necessary.

Freeman Homes – Land to the Rear of St Margarets Drive

This site in general has moved forward in accordance with the correct planning procedures – albeit with similar issues of dust during last year's dry summer, and in recent times complaints of out of approved hours of working which has been reported to the Tewkesbury Enforcement Team.

With both these construction sites taking place within the village we acknowledge it feels at times like we are under siege with little respite from the ongoing noise and disturbance, especially for those residents who abut the sites. Added to this it is noted that progress on both sites appears to have slowed down – maybe a sign of the current market conditions nationally.

However, APC wishes to assure you that we continue to monitor the sites and where necessary to make the villagers' voices heard. As always – if neighbouring residents have ongoing concerns – please liaise with us and we will investigate.

Conclusions

As shown by the above applications – and the many other smaller householder proposals in and around the village – together with the ever changing national Government planning agenda, Gloucestershire emerging devolution changes and Tewkesbury/County Strategic and Local Plan agendas, Planning continues to play a significant role in Parish Council work.

Cllr Nicola Broderick

APPENDIX B

Gloucestershire County Council – Winchcombe and Woodmancote Division

County Cllr Cheryl Agg

Introduction

I was elected as County Councillor for Winchcombe & Woodmancote in 2025. This short report summarises key work, achievements, and ongoing priorities during my first year in office, and is intended to support engagement with parish councils and local representatives.

Representing Parish Concerns

Over the past year I have worked closely with parish councils, residents, and County Council officers to ensure local issues are raised promptly and followed through. This has included attending meetings, site visits, and maintaining regular contact with clerks and chairs to resolve concerns efficiently.

Highways, Transport & Safety

Key areas of focus have included:

- Reporting and following up on highways defects such as potholes, drainage, signage and verge issues.
- Supporting community concerns around speeding and road safety.
- Working with officers on traffic management, including speed awareness initiatives and local safety improvements.

Communities & Services

I have supported residents and community groups with issues relating to:

- Access to County Council services.
- Adult social care and support services.
- Public transport and mobility challenges, particularly in rural areas.

Where concerns have arisen, I have acted as an advocate between residents and County Council departments.

Environment, Climate & Infrastructure

This year I have contributed to County-level discussions on:

- Climate and environmental priorities.
- Sustainable transport and active travel.
- Managing development impacts on infrastructure.

I have continued to raise the importance of rural perspectives in county decision-making.

Partnership Working

I have worked constructively with parish and town councils, Borough and district councillors, and County Council officers. This partnership approach has helped ensure that local knowledge informs County-level decisions.

Looking Ahead

In the coming year my priorities will continue to include:

- Road safety and highways maintenance.
- Supporting vulnerable residents.
- Ensuring parish councils are kept informed and listened to.
- Championing practical climate and infrastructure solutions that work for rural communities.

Staying in Touch

Parish councils and residents are always welcome to contact me regarding local issues, new concerns, or to invite me to meetings.

Email: cheryl.agg@gloucestershire.gov.uk **Phone:** 07903 880402

County Cllr Cheryl Agg

Tewkesbury Borough Councillors' Report – Winchcombe Ward

As your Borough Councillors we are pleased to be able to share our annual report with you for 2025–2026.

Despite significant pressures throughout the year, Tewkesbury Borough Council has successfully maintained services, stable finances and begun preparing for significant structural reform. Looking ahead, the Council faces a period of increased uncertainty, particularly in relation to local government reorganisation and national funding changes.

During the year, as a Council we have continued to focus on delivering key priorities affecting residents and parish councils across the Borough, including flooding resilience and emergency planning, housing and homelessness pressures, environmental and waste services, economic development and financial sustainability. Work also continued on digital improvements to council services, performance monitoring and strengthening transparency and accountability through regular scrutiny, audit and governance processes. Alongside overseeing budgets, risk management and service delivery, we also continue to plan for the longer-term impact of Local Government Reorganisation and infrastructure pressures linked to growth, while continuing to support effective frontline services and partnership working across the Borough.

The borough continues to experience significant housing and population growth and as your Ward Councillors we are available to help support you with any planning or development concerns that you may experience.

We recognise the valuable work that goes on within our communities, largely by volunteers. As well as directly supporting local initiatives we work closely with Tewkesbury Borough Council's Communities Team and we have been involved in several of their initiatives this year. We have regular dialogue with Anj Patel, our area's Community and Place Development Worker about local needs and opportunities. Please do get in touch with us if we can support any community projects you are involved in, we are keen to help where we can.

A major strategic focus for the Council this year has been preparation for Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). This is likely to result in the creation of one or more unitary authorities, replacing the current two-tier system. Staff at the Council have been working closely with other district and county colleagues to prepare for this change and we have seen significant impacts on Senior roles and their capacities in recent months. As a county we are due to hear from Government in July regarding the decision on what unitary model they want us to implement and the expected timeline. Until then we are sitting with significant uncertainty, Council Officers obviously more so.

Financially we are in a stable position for the short term; we have a balanced budget for the year ahead and are managing finances carefully. It's worth remembering that the Borough Council receives less than 7% of the total Council Tax bill, and while it is anticipated that the Council will cease to exist beyond April 2028 this has not yet been formally confirmed, therefore the Council must plan its medium term financial future as if it were to continue as an independent organisation. This will also help the new unitary authority in planning for the early years of its

own financial challenges. The Council has an established reserves strategy, helping to manage financial risks and maintain stability.

The Council has continued to strengthen its work on climate and environmental policy through its commitment to becoming carbon neutral by 2030 and supporting a borough-wide Climate and Ecological Emergency framework. During the year, the Council has focused on biodiversity and nature recovery through new peat-free and pesticide-free commitments, and partnership work linked to Gloucestershire's Local Nature Recovery Strategy. Additional work has included improving sustainability within procurement and planning policy, promoting carbon literacy training for councillors and staff, and working with residents, businesses and parish councils to strengthen environmental resilience across the Borough.

It's been a privilege to serve again as your Ward Councillors this year and we look forward to another year representing you, thank you for giving us the opportunity. You can get in touch with any of us via the email addresses below.

Cllrs Gemma Madle, Jim Mason, David Gray

councillor.madle@tewkesbury.gov.uk | councillor.mason@tewkesbury.gov.uk | councillor.gray@tewkesbury.gov.uk

APPENDIX C

Alderton Village Hall

The Village Hall continues to be well used by a variety of village organisations and other groups. There are regular bookings for the pre-school (Acorns) during term time, Gardening Club (on the second Thursday of the month), The Parish Council, Yoga and, more recently Qi Gong. The Hall is also used for private parties and as a Polling station for local elections.

The Village Hall Social Committee organise monthly coffee mornings which provide a friendly place for people to get together socially whilst enjoying home-made cakes and other refreshments. These are often themed (Canines, jigsaws and books to name a few) or held in collaboration with other organisations (Seed swap with the Alderton Allotment Association and Plant Sales with the Alderton Gardening Club). They also organise the annual Flower and Produce show which is a fun and friendly community event.

The Hall is a great venue for fund-raising events organised not only by the Village Hall Committee but also by other village groups such as the pre-school (annual Quiz and Curry) and the Church (Christmas Fayre). It provides an important facility to support other groups in the village.

If anyone is keen to start a club or society that they think would appeal to the community it would be great to hear from you.

Our plans to refurbish and improve the Hall are ongoing. Last summer we held a Public Consultation and conducted a survey to find out what the community would like to see. This generated a good response and has given us some ideas to pursue.

We want the hall to continue to provide a valuable community facility for years to come and to be a facility that everyone in the village wants to make use of. This does require a certain amount of effort and there are currently only 5 people on the main committee with one additional volunteer on the development sub-committee. We do urgently need more support to be able to share the tasks out so please do get in touch if you can spare some time to help us ensure we can continue to provide this amenity for the village.

The Social team (who organise and run the coffee mornings among other things) currently has 9 volunteers but would welcome more. Even if you can only offer an hour to help wash up at a coffee morning "many hands make light work".

If you would like to volunteer or would like more information about what is involved please email:

enquiries@aldertonvillagehall.co.uk

Alderton Village Hall Committee

Alderton Neighbourhood Watch Group

A Neighbourhood Watch group is a community-driven crime prevention program where residents collaborate with police to reduce local crime, burglary, and antisocial behaviour. It involves monitoring for suspicious activity, sharing security information, and building stronger communities.

Groups are led by a volunteer resident coordinator who acts as a liaison with local police and the regional Neighbourhood Watch organisations.

Alderton resident David Johnson has volunteered to take on the role of coordinator and will become active from the beginning of June. He will engage with the residents in various ways to publicise the group, share information about crime prevention and encourage membership and involvement.

David Johnson, Alderton Neighbourhood Watch

Vicar's Report

The Annual Report is a reflection of the hard work and dedication of our church wardens, treasurers, secretaries, committees, choir, organists, campanologists alongside those who decorate our churches, plus many volunteers and parishioners who have contributed to our mission of bringing the love of Christ within our communities.

As we reflect on the past year, we are grateful for the many blessings we have received. Our worship services have been a source of comfort and strength. In addition to our regular worship services, we have offered a variety of alternative services within our parishes for example Café Church; Lent Course; VE Day 80th Celebration; Mothering Sunday Family Service; Animal Blessing services; Harvest; Carols in the churchyard.

Looking ahead we are excited about the possibilities for the coming year. We acknowledge the ongoing challenges of looking after historic buildings, but we are determined that we will continue to adapt and innovate, whilst exploring using our churches as community buildings, as we continue to work to bring the love of Christ to our communities. We are committed to serving those who are most in need, and we will continue to explore our outreach efforts to meet the changing needs of our communities.

We are delighted to say that the electrical heating system has now been installed in the Church. We have been very impressed with the Gas Engineers and the team of electricians who kept to their time scales, kept us informed and left the Church tidy. We would like to THANK EVERYONE in our great village community who so generously contributed towards the heating system, which is hugely appreciated. We would also like to THANK the Parish Council, Enover Community Trust, Benefact Trust, C of E Net Zero Hardship Fund and the Diocese of Gloucester Net Zero Hardship Fund for giving us grants towards the costs. We have tested the heaters, and all is working well so we are set up for the autumn and winter. We are pleased to say that Church is now open again in daylight hours. Finally, I would like to express my gratitude to all mentioned above for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. It is through your efforts that we are able to accomplish our mission of bringing the love of Christ to our communities. I am proud to be a part of these wonderful communities, and I look forward to what we may be called to accomplish together in the coming year, especially with regards to reaching out to newcomers to Alderton with the building of many new houses.

Yours in Christ.

Rev Julia Hook

Alderton Acorns Preschool and Toddler Group

Alderton Acorns Preschool continues to play an important role within our village community, providing a warm, nurturing and stimulating environment for local children and families during their early years.

We currently have 13 children enrolled for the Summer Term, consisting of 9 preschool children and 4 rising 3's. Six of our preschool children will be leaving us in July to begin their next exciting chapter at primary school. Looking ahead to September, we currently have 8 children enrolled and would warmly welcome any enquiries from families who may be interested in joining the preschool. Anyone wishing to find out more is encouraged to contact our Preschool Manager, Katie Chandler, on 07842 161159.

We are also pleased to welcome Katy Albutt to our preschool team and would like to extend a very warm welcome to her. We would also like to express our sincere thanks to our bank staff who provided invaluable support whilst we recruited to the position. Their flexibility and commitment were greatly appreciated.

Our preschool team continues to work incredibly hard to provide high-quality care and learning experiences for the children. We are fortunate to have a highly qualified, experienced and dedicated staff team who consistently go above and beyond in supporting both the children and their families. A heartfelt thank you goes to Katie Chandler, Steph Castle and Camilla Cheyney for the passion, care and commitment they bring to the preschool every day.

This July will also see four valued committee members step down as their children move on to "big school". On behalf of the preschool, I would like to thank them sincerely for the enormous contribution they have made during

their time on the committee. Our committee works incredibly well because of its collaborative approach, with members bringing a wide range of experiences and skills that allow us to support the preschool in many different ways. Their work behind the scenes in areas such as fundraising, policies, recruitment and decision-making has helped move the preschool forward and support its ongoing sustainability.

Whilst we have already identified new committee members to step into these roles, we are always pleased to hear from parents or villagers who may be interested in supporting the preschool or joining the committee in the future. Anyone interested would be very welcome to have an informal chat with me as Chair ahead of our AGM in June/July, where the new committee will be formally voted in.

As always, fundraising and community support continue to play a hugely important role in the life of the preschool. Our Quiz and Curry Night remains our main fundraising event and continues to be incredibly well supported by the village community. We simply could not run such a successful event without the generosity and support of so many people, and we are extremely grateful to everyone involved.

We would also like to extend huge thanks to Mark Watts Jones and his team of volunteers for organising the Alderton 5K. This is another fantastic community event which raises a significant amount of money for the preschool each year and is greatly appreciated.

The reality for many early years settings is that government/county council funding does not fully cover the running costs of providing high-quality childcare and education, and this continues to be a challenge going forward. Community support therefore plays a vital role in helping us sustain and develop the preschool for local families. We are incredibly fortunate to have such a supportive village community, alongside a dedicated staff team and committee, all of whom help make Alderton Acorns Preschool the special place that it is.

Finally, thank you to all of our staff, committee members, volunteers, families and supporters for everything you continue to do for the preschool. Your support, time and commitment are genuinely appreciated and make a real difference to the children and families we serve.

Ali Armishaw, Chair of Alderton Acorns Preschool

Alderton News and Information

If you want to keep up with what's going on in Alderton we've got a variety of different ways for you to do so.

The Alderton newsletter is published monthly. You can find it at www.aldertonvillage.co.uk/village-newsletter or sign up to receive it by email at www.aldertonvillage.co.uk/newsletter-signup.

Our village website is at www.aldertonvillage.co.uk, on Facebook at www.facebook.com/aldertonglos and Instagram at www.instagram.com/alderton_glos.

We also have WhatsApp groups:

- **'Alderton residents'** is for locals-only information and updates.
- **'For Sale/Free'** is our group for selling and exchanging.
- **'Alderton chatter'** is our chat group.

To join any of the WhatsApp groups message Mark on 07973 963539 or email mwjmail@gmail.com.

Alderton Bell Ringers

Over the past year we have had comments from villagers saying how much they enjoy listening to the bells – we much appreciate that.

Whenever a national or local occasion allows, we aim to ring to celebrate, such as the 2025 Commemoration of VE Day, Christmas, ringing in the New Year, and, recently, one of our ringers' 80th birthday.

We would very much like to recruit new ringers (who don't actually have to be members of the Church). I am more than willing to show anyone interested how the bells are rung and initiate training. We have plenty of social activities too alongside ringing.

Bell ringing can become a hobby that lasts a lifetime and it can bring you into contact with many people from many backgrounds, from all over the country.

As we, in our band, are all getting older we are hoping to bring in new and younger blood, before our village loses this wonderful English tradition.

Paul Smith, Tower Captain 07563 153934

Alderton Gardening Club

As chairman of Alderton Gardening Club I am happy to report of another successful year for our organisation for the period in focus of March 2025–March 2026.

Membership levels have once again breached the three figure number and our meetings were all well attended, largely profitable with levels up to or exceeding pre-Covid times.

We have held 11 meetings with one cancellation due to adverse weather conditions. Nicki, Sheila and Bev have organised a varied programme of speakers and subjects with each providing us all with great entertainment, education and interest. Amongst all of these, two high profile highlights were the appearances in June of the celebrated plant pest and disease pathologist Pippa Greenwood of BBC Radio 4's Gardeners' Question Time fame. Pippa gave us another full house attendance with a talk on "her life in gardening". Also, more recently in February the former head rosarian at David Austin Roses, Michael Marriott, gave us an enthralling talk which again drew a big audience. This year we have two further nationally known gardeners coming to see us. Terry Walton the celebrated allotment expert from the Rhondda valley will be joining us for his third visit in July; he is joined by Reg Moule our honorary life member for a Gardeners' Question Time. Also in October we will welcome, again from Wales, a regular presenter on BBC TV's Gardeners' World, Sue Kent, for a talk about creating beautiful borders.

Other events of note in 2025 included two plant sale/coffee mornings in April and later in September. The former was run in partnership with The Alderton Village Hall Management Committee who handled the catering and was the busiest coffee morning on record for them and the village hall was packed. The second event we ran as a solo event, which wasn't so well attended but we still managed to pull in enough participants to make a small profit. Thanks to Thorncroft Clematis Nursery, Harrells Hardy Plants, Potager Plants and of course Gotherington Nurseries who kindly gave us a nice donation from their takings at both events. We have another one of these events, again in conjunction with the Village Hall team, on the 2nd of May.

Another successful event for our year in review was a garden party and visit event at the end of July in Beckford, hosted by our members living there. Several of their gardens were open for a visit and a walk around, followed by an enjoyable cream tea in the garden of Julia Maxwell. To all of our Beckford "possie" (as they call themselves) thank you once again for making this possible, as well as a thank you to our own "queen of catering" Julie Alvis for organising the cream teas.

Sadly in the last year our association with Vale Gardens Ltd of Badsey came to a close with the company ceasing business in November 2025 after just shy of 25 years of successful trading. Many thanks to Keith Wright and his team of employees for the supplies of compost, seed potatoes, onion sets and shallots over the last 7 years. We wish them all well for the future.

Supplies of compost have now been obtained from Gotherington Nurseries, with their proprietor Mark Tskarisianos being no stranger to our club after giving us an informative talk and demonstration in the past on hanging baskets. Thanks also go to Keith and Caroline Page at Corner Cottage for providing our compost collection point, Simon Gilder for hauling the pallets and loose bags from Gotherington, and to Freeman Homes for unloading his trailer with their telehandler. We will aim to ask BHGS next year for a pallet of Melcourt Sylvagrow peat free compost for members who prefer this option which Gotherington do not stock.

Publicity of our club has, I believe, always been crucial to our continued success and expansion. Regular posts on Facebook circulated around the nearby parishes is an excellent way to advertise our next monthly meeting and our special guest nights. We also use the Alderton Village WhatsApp group and Newsletter, the former has several hundred members. Recently Vice Chairman Phil Kitson has perfected the art of making eye-catching and succinctly informative posters for the club, and these can be printed and displayed in the village shop and on the parish noticeboards. Any volunteers who would like to regularly pin some of these on surrounding parish noticeboards or at Gotherington Nurseries etc will always be welcome. Thanks to Helen West for doing this for us on the Alderton churchyard notice board.

One area where we have not progressed over the last year is with trips out to visit gardens away from our area. Coach travel is getting prohibitively expensive, and with the current energy crisis causing further increases this situation will surely not improve any time quickly. However during this August, on Saturday the 15th 2026, Nicki and Sheila are encouraging as many members as possible to follow their lead in a self-drive, personal cars trip to John Massey's 8 acre Ashwood Nurseries garden near Kingswinford, which is about an hour away.

So in summary, I am firmly of the belief that our club is in a very strong position, with healthy finances, record breaking membership numbers and good attendance figures at our monthly meetings. Where memberships lapse

and are not renewed, we continue to replace these with fresh members who often originate now from surrounding parishes.

A mark of our success is the fact that since we began eight years ago we have only had to raise the admission fee for members by 50p and non-members by £1. We believe we offer a value for money package for our members and guests alike, with high quality horticultural speakers, varied subject matter talks, refreshments, gardening advice, friendship and company for a very reasonable financial outlay. However with the economy in trouble and inflationary pressures continuing, a review of our pricing and possible increases may have to result next year.

To illustrate our value for money offering, if a member joined up at the start this year and attended all of our meetings, with the membership subscription and special guest speakers ticket admission fees, all of this, including the free Christmas social evening would cost a maximum of £52 – remarkable value.

None of what I have reported upon would have happened without the continued, dedicated hard work from my committee colleagues in their varying roles and duties. So on behalf of our membership and visiting guests, thank you to each and every one of them for what they continue to do. Thank you also to everyone who has attended our meetings either as a member or as a guest, and finally thank you to our support team helpers of Jim Keating, Mike Patterson, Peter Cross and Leonora Tovey along with all who stack chairs, tables and help clear things away after the meetings; your help doesn't go unnoticed.

Tom Cullimore, Chair of Alderton Gardening Club

Alderton Allotment Association

The Allotment Association exists to act in the best interests of the allotments site and all the plot holders, who automatically become members when they take on a tenancy. We are a constituted association with an elected Committee. We manage group activities connected with overall site maintenance, arrange insurance for communal equipment and plot holder liability, organise social events on site for members and work very closely with the Parish Council who are our landlords.

Over the past year the AAA and APC have jointly maintained all the communal areas of the site and organised a working party to clear accumulated debris. We have planted more grant funded trees on the western boundary and replaced some fruit trees that were victims of last year's dry summer.

We are working with APC to improve the soil quality of the Parish Council owned plots, adjacent to Franklin Road. These have been difficult to let, but we are sure we can improve their attractiveness over the next 12 months by following a programme of weed control, soil feeding and redefining plot boundaries. In addition, we eagerly await the occupation of the first house on the Owl development, which will trigger the release of S106 money to enable us to implement our project to install a composting loo on site.

In April we held the Allotments Seed Share in the Village Hall as part of the monthly coffee morning. It was well attended and a good opportunity to share both seeds and knowledge with the wider community. The popular Produce Stall will be set up in the orchard again this summer, so that plot holders have a base from which to share their surplus fruit and veg with the rest of the village.

Members of the AAA and APC all encourage new plot holders to take up tenancies and aim to keep the site full and active. We are always happy to talk to anyone who wishes to know more about the allotments and joining this thriving community.

Nick Andrews, Chairman

Green Fields Trust

Green Fields Trust is an association set up by local inhabitants to distribute community benefit funding (now over £6,000 a year) flowing from Gretton Solar Farm Limited, the company that runs the solar farm at Lower Stanley. We are not constituted as a charity but as an unincorporated association. We maintain visibility and accountability via the website where the grant process and application form may be downloaded. The owners of Gretton Solar Farm Limited are Bluefield Solar Income Fund, who acquired the Solar Farm asset from the previous owners, CTF in 2020.

With this funding, Green Fields Trust has continued to fund projects in the community in Alderton and Gretton. In the last couple of years to May 2026 we were able to make grants to:

- **Alderton Village Hall – 'Eco' hand dryers in village hall.**

- **Gretton Village Hall – Solar PV and Battery System.**

There are up to two opportunities a year to apply for funding, on 31 March and 30 September – the next deadline is 30 September 2026. We are looking for innovative and significant projects that meet our funding criteria. To see these, get an application form and see what we've done over the years, visit the website: www.greenfieldstrust.co.uk.

Kenneth Roles, on behalf of the trustees

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